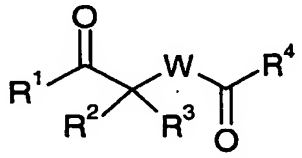
CLAIMS

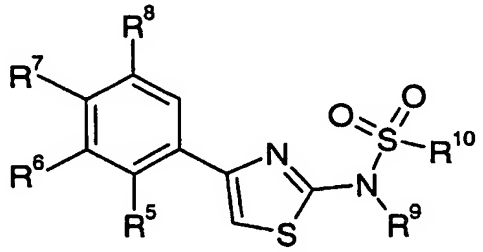
1. Use of at least one compound that inhibits kynurenine 3-hydroxylase, for the preparation of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of diabetes and its complications, by inhibition of kynurenine 3-hydroxylase.

2. Use according to Claim 1, in which the medicament is for the prevention and/or treatment of non-insulin-dependent diabetes and its complications.

3. Use according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the compound corresponds to the general formula (I) or to the general formula (II):



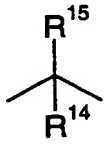
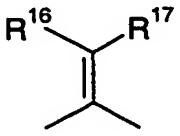
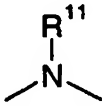
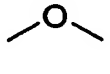
(I)



(II)

in which:

- W represents a divalent radical chosen from the following radicals:

 ;  ;  and  ;

- R^1 represents a radical chosen from linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, a heterocyclic radical, an aryl radical and a heteroaryl radical;

- R^2 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;

- R^3 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^2 and R^3 together also possibly forming a group $=CR^{16}R^{17}$; or alternatively together forming, with the carbon atom that bears them, a cycloalkyl radical or a heterocyclic radical;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$, $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$, linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen, a halogen atom, and a nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, trifluoromethyl, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl or aryl radical;

the radicals R^5 and R^6, on the one hand, or R^6 and R^7, on the other hand, may also form, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, a benzene ring optionally substituted by one or more groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from a halogen atom, a trifluoromethyl, cyano or nitro radical, an alkyl radical and an alkoxy radical;

- R^9 represents hydrogen or an alkyl radical;
- R^{10} is chosen from an alkyl, an aryl and a heteroaryl radical;
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;

- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, -N($R^{12}R^{12'}$) or -N(R^{12})OR^{13} radical;
- R^{14} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;

R^{14} may also form a bond with R^2, thus forming a double bond between the carbon atoms respectively bearing the substituents R^{14} and R^2; or alternatively R^{14} forms, with R^2 and with the carbon atoms that bear them, a ring containing a total of 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 carbon atoms, among which 1, 2 or 3 may be replaced with an atom chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said ring possibly comprising one or more unsaturations in the form of (a) double bond(s), and being optionally substituted by one or more radicals, which may be identical or different, chosen from oxo, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl and alkylcarbonyloxy;

- R^{15} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, cycloalkyloxy, heteroaryloxy, heterocyclyloxy, alkylthio, alkenylthio, alkynylthio, arylthio, cycloalkylthio, heteroarylthio, heterocyclylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^{14} and R^{15} also possibly forming, together with the carbon atom that bears them, a cycloalkyl radical or a heterocyclic radical;
- R^{16} and R^{17}, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen, a halogen atom, an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl radical and a heterocyclic radical; or alternatively
- R^{16} and R^{17} form, together with the carbon atom that bears them, a cycloalkyl radical or a heterocyclic radical; and
- R^{11} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl radical, and any protecting group for an amine function;

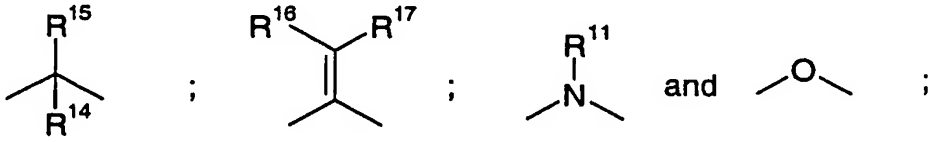
and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

4. Use according to Claim 3, in which the compound belongs to the general formula (I).

5. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the compound of the general formula (I) has the following characteristics, taken separately or in combination:

- W represents a divalent radical chosen from the following radicals:



- R^1 represents a radical chosen from linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, a heterocyclic radical, an aryl radical and a heteroaryl radical;
- R^2 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl and aryl;
- R^3 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkylthio and aryl;
- R^2 and R^3 together also possibly forming a group $=CR^{16}R^{17}$;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$, $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$, linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical;

- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ or $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$ radical;
- R^{14} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl and arylalkyl;

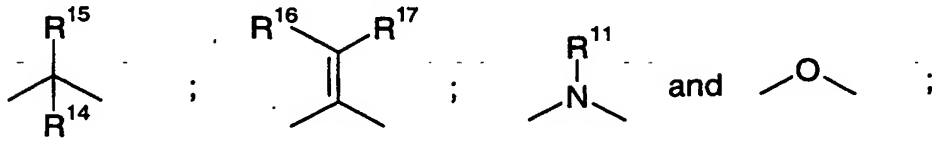
R^{14} may also form a bond with R^2, thus forming a double bond between the carbon atoms respectively bearing the substituents R^{14} and R^2; or alternatively R^{14} forms, with R^2 and with the carbon atoms that bear them, a ring containing a total of 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms, among which 1, 2 or 3 may be replaced with an atom chosen from nitrogen and oxygen, the said ring possibly comprising one or more unsaturations in the form of (a) double bond(s), and being optionally substituted by one or more radicals, which may be identical or different, chosen from oxo, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl and alkylcarbonyloxy;

- R^{15} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxy, alkylthio and aryl;
- R^{16} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl or aryl radical;
- R^{17} represents a hydrogen atom; and
- R^{11} is chosen from hydrogen and any protecting group for an amine function;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and possible tautomeric forms thereof;
the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

6. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound belongs to the family (Ia) of the general formula (I) in which:

- W represents a divalent radical chosen from the following radicals:



- R^1 represents a radical chosen from linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, a heterocyclic radical, an aryl radical and a heteroaryl radical;
- R^2 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^3 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^2 and R^3 together also possibly forming a group $=CR^{16}R^{17}$, or alternatively forming, together with the carbon atom that bears them, a cycloalkyl radical or a heterocyclic radical;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$, $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$, linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl,

alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;

- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, -N($R^{12}R^{12'}$) or -N(R^{12})OR^{13} radical;
- R^{14} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;

R^{14} may also form a bond with R^2, thus forming a double bond between the carbon atoms respectively bearing the substituents R^{14} and R^2; or alternatively R^{14} forms, with R^2 and with the carbon atoms that bear them, a ring containing a total of 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 carbon atoms, among which 1, 2 or 3 may be replaced with an atom chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said ring possibly comprising one or more unsaturations in the form of (a) double bond(s), and being optionally substituted by one or more radicals, which may be identical or different, chosen from oxo, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl and alkylcarbonyloxy;

- R^{15} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, carboxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, cycloalkyloxy, heteroaryloxy, heterocyclyloxy, alkylthio, alkenylthio, alkynylthio, arylthio, cycloalkylthio, heteroarylthio, heterocyclylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;
- R^{14} and R^{15} also possibly forming, together with the carbon atom that bears them, a cycloalkyl radical or a heterocyclic radical;
- R^{16} and R^{17}, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen, a halogen atom, an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl radical and a heterocyclic radical; or alternatively

R^{16} and R^{17} form, together with the carbon atom that bears them, a cycloalkyl radical or a heterocyclic radical; and

- R^{11} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl radical, and any protecting group for an amine function;

• with the restriction that when R^3, R^2 and R^{14} each represent hydrogen, then R^{15} is other than an alkyl radical, optionally substituted by aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;

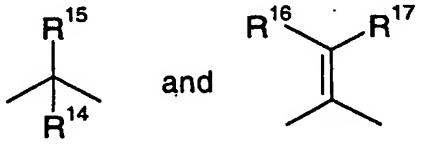
and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

7. Use according to Claim 6, in which the compound belongs to the family (Ib) of the general formula (I) in which:

• W represents a divalent radical chosen from the radicals:



;

• R^1 represents a phenyl radical, optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 groups chosen from cyano, nitro, phenyl, benzyl, alkyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkynyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy, thiol -$SR^{13'}$, -$S(O)R^{13'}$ and -$S(O_2)R^{13'}$, and a halogen atom;

• R^2 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, optionally substituted alkyl, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy, alkylthio and phenyl;

• R^3 is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, optionally substituted alkyl, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy, alkylthio and phenyl;

• R^2 and R^3 together also possibly forming a group $=CR^{16}R^{17}$;

• R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, in particular benzyloxy, alkenyloxy containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkynyloxy containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, phenoxy, -$N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ and -$N(R^{12})OR^{13}$;

• R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl radi-

cal, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkynyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and phenyl;

- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl radical, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkynyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and phenyl;
- $R^{13'}$ is chosen from an optionally substituted alkyl radical, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkynyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, phenyl and $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$;
- R^{14} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, optionally substituted alkyl, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy, alkylthio and phenyl;

R^{14} may also form a bond with R^2, thus forming a double bond between the carbon atoms respectively bearing the substituents R^{14} and R^2;

- R^{15} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, optionally substituted alkyl, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy, alkylthio and phenyl;
- R^{16} is chosen from hydrogen, a halogen atom, hydroxyl, thiol, optionally substituted alkyl, in particular benzyl, alkenyl containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy, alkylthio and phenyl; and
- R^{17} represents a hydrogen atom;

with the restriction that when R^3, R^2 and R^{14} each represent hydrogen, then R^{15} is other than an alkyl radical, optionally substituted by aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and a heterocyclic radical;

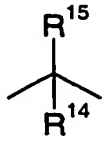
and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

8. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound is chosen from the family (Ic) of the general formula (I), in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



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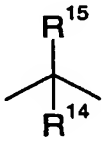
- R^1 represents a radical chosen from linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, a heterocyclic radical, an aryl radical and a heteroaryl radical;
- R^2 represents hydrogen;
- R^3 represents hydrogen;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ and $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$;
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;
- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ or $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$ radical;
- R^{14} represents hydrogen;
- R^{15} represents hydrogen;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

9. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound is chosen from the family (Id) of the general formula (I), in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



;

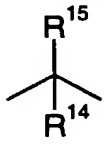
- R^1 represents a radical chosen from linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, a heterocyclic radical, an aryl radical and a heteroaryl radical;
- R^2 represents hydrogen;
- R^3 represents hydrogen;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ and $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$;
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;

- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, -N($R^{12}R^{12'}$) or -N(R^{12})OR^{13} radical;
- R^{14} represents hydrogen; and
- R^{15} is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, cycloalkyloxy, heteroaryloxy and heterocyclyloxy;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;
the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

10. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound is chosen from the family (Ie) of the general formula (I), in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



;

- R^1 represents a radical chosen from linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, a heterocyclic radical, an aryl radical and a heteroaryl radical;
- R^2 and R^{14} together form a bond, thus forming a double bond between the carbon atoms respectively bearing R^2 and R^{14};
- R^3 represents hydrogen;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, -N($R^{12}R^{12'}$) and -N(R^{12})OR^{13};
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or

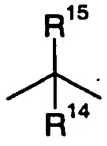
bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;

- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ or $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$ radical; and
- R^{15} represents hydrogen;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;
the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

11. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound is chosen from the family (If) of the general formula (I), in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



;

- R^1 represents a radical chosen from linear or branched alkyl containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms and optionally substituted, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, a heterocyclic radical, an aryl radical and a heteroaryl radical;
- R^2 and R^{14} together form a bond, thus forming a double bond between the carbon atoms respectively bearing R^2 and R^{14};
- R^3 represents hydrogen;

- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, -N($R^{12}R^{12'}$) and -N(R^{12})OR^{13};
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;
- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, -N($R^{12}R^{12'}$) or -N(R^{12})OR^{13} radical; and
- R^{15} is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, cycloalkyloxy, heteroaryloxy and heterocyclyloxy;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;
the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

12. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound is chosen from the family (Ig) of the general formula (I), in which the compound is chosen from:

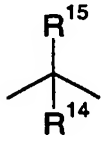
- 4-(4'-methylcyclohexyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-methoxy-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-3-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-hydroxy-3-phenyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-3-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-methyl-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-chloro-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-chloro-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-fluoro-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-fluoro-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-thiomethyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-methylidene-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 3-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 3-phenyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 3-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- methyl (*R,S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
- methyl (*R,S*)-2-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
- 4-(3'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 4-(3'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 4-(3'-nitrophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 4-(3'-fluoro-4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 2-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 3-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 3-phenyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 3-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 2,3-dimethyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-4-(3'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-4-(3'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid; and
- 2-hydroxy-4-(3'-chloro-4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;
the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

13. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound is chosen from the family (Ih) of the general formula (I), in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



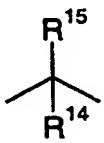
;

- R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^{12}, $R^{12'}$, R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined above; and
- R^{15} is chosen from a thiol, alkylthio, alkenylthio, alkynylthio, arylthio, cycloalkylthio, heteroarylthio or heterocyclylthio radical;

with the restriction that when R^2, R^3 and R^{14} each represent hydrogen, then R^{15} cannot represent a thiol or alkylthio radical;
and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;
the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

14. Use according to Claim 13, in which the compound is chosen from the family (Ii) of the general formula (I), in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



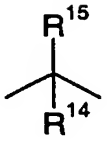
;

- R^1 represents an aryl radical;
- R^2 represent hydrogen, or forms a bond with R^{14};
- R^3 represents hydrogen;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ and $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$;
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;
- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ or $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$ radical;
- R^{14} represents hydrogen, or forms a bond with R^2; and
- R^{15} represents an arylthio radical;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;
the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;
and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

15. Use according to Claim 14, in which the compound is chosen from the family (Ij) of the general formula (I), in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



;

- R^1 represents a phenyl radical;
- R^2 represents hydrogen;
- R^3 represents hydrogen;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl and an alkoxy radical;
- R^{14} represents hydrogen; and
- R^{15} represents a phenylthio radical;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

16. Use according to Claim 13, in which the compound is chosen from:

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;

- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

17. Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the compound is chosen from:

- 4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- methyl 4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
- (*R,S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- (*R,S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3'-nitrophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- methyl (*R,S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
- (*R,S*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-methoxy-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-methoxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-3-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-hydroxy-3-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-methyl-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-chloro-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-methylidene-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-3-phenyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- methyl (*R,S*)-2-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
- (*R,S*)-2-phenyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*R,S*)-2-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- (*E*)-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-4-(3'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-4-(3'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-4-(3'-nitrophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-2-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 3-methyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- 3-benzyl-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3'-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-2-hydroxy-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;
- (*E*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-difluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid;

- methyl (*E*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoate; and
- ethyl (*E*)-2-hydroxy-4-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoate;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

18. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the compound belongs to the general formula (II).

19. Use according to Claim 3 or Claim 18, in which the compound belongs to the family (IIa) of the general formula (II) in which:

- R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are as defined above;
- R^9 represents hydrogen; and
- R^{10} is chosen from a phenyl radical, optionally substituted in position 3 and/or 4 with an alkyl or alkoxy radical, preferably methyl or methoxy, and a naphthyl radical;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

20. Use according to Claim 3 or Claim 18, in which the compound belongs to the family (IIb) of the general formula (II) in which:

- R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen, a halogen atom, a nitro radical and a trifluoromethyl radical;

the radicals R^6 and R^7 also possibly forming, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, a benzene ring, optionally substituted by one or more groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from a halogen atom and a trifluoromethyl, nitro or alkoxy radical; and

- R^9 and R^{10} are as defined above;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

21. Use according to one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 18, 19 and 20, in which the compound is chosen from the list consisting of:

- 4-methoxy-N-(4-naphthalen-2-ylthiazol-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-amino-N-[4-(3-nitrophenyl)thiazol-2-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-methyl-N-[4-(3-nitrophenyl)thiazol-2-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 3,4-dimethoxy-N-[4-(3-nitrophenyl)thiazol-2-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-methoxy-N-[4-(3-nitrophenyl)thiazol-2-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 2-naphthalenesulfonic acid [4-(3-nitrophenyl)thiazol-2-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- N-[4-(2-fluoro-5-trifluoromethylphenyl)thiazol-2-yl]-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;
- N-[4-(3-fluoro-5-trifluoromethylphenyl)thiazol-2-yl]-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;
- 4-methyl-N-[4-(4-nitrophenyl)thiazol-2-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-amino-N-[4-(2-fluoro-5-trifluoromethylphenyl)thiazol-2-yl]benzenesulfonamide; and

- 3,4-dimethoxy-N-[4-(2-fluoro-5-trifluoromethylphenyl)thiazol-2-yl]-benzenesulfenamide;

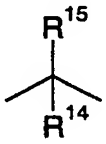
and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

22. Compound belonging to the family (Ih) of general structure (I) in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



;

- R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^{12}, $R^{12'}$, R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined in Claim 4; and
- R^{15} is chosen from a thiol, alkylthio, alkenylthio, alkynylthio, arylthio, cycloalkylthio, heteroarylthio or heterocyclylthio radical;

with the restriction that when R^2, R^3 and R^{14} each represent hydrogen, then R^{15} cannot represent a thiol or alkylthio radical;

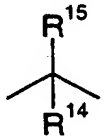
and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

23. Compound according to Claim 22, belonging to the family (Ii) of general structure (I) in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



;

- R^1 represents an aryl radical;
- R^2 represent hydrogen, or forms a bond with R^{14};
- R^3 represents hydrogen;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ and $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$;
- R^{12} and $R^{12'}$, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkylcarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; or alternatively R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ may form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic group containing a total of 5 to 10 atoms, among which 1, 2, 3 or 4 are chosen, independently of each other, from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the said heterocyclic radical also optionally comprising 1, 2, 3 or 4 double bonds and optionally being substituted by one or more chemical groups, which may be identical or different, chosen from hydroxyl, halogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic radical and trifluoromethyl;
- R^{13} is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $-N(R^{12}R^{12'})$ or $-N(R^{12})OR^{13}$ radical;
- R^{14} represents hydrogen, or forms a bond with R^2; and
- R^{15} represents an arylthio radical;

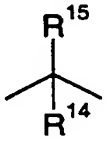
and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

24. Compound according to Claim 22 or Claim 23, belonging to the family (Ij) of the general formula (I) in which:

- W represents the divalent radical:



;

- R^1 represents a phenyl radical;
- R^2 represents hydrogen;
- R^3 represents hydrogen;
- R^4 is chosen from hydroxyl and an alkoxy radical;
- R^{14} represents hydrogen; and
- R^{15} represents a phenylthio radical;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

25. Compound according to any one of Claims 21 to 23, belonging to the family (Ih), chosen from:

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;

- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers thereof, and the possible tautomeric forms thereof;

the solvates and hydrates of these compounds;

and also the possible salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or alternatively the pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of these compounds.

26. Pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active principle, a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one compound defined in one of

the preceding claims, alone or in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable, suitable, non-toxic inert excipients.

27. Use of a compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 25, for the preparation of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of diabetes and its complications, by reducing the risk of hypoglycaemia.

28. Process for manufacturing a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of diabetes, in particular non-insulin-dependent diabetes and its complications, in which at least one compound of the formula (I) or (II) as defined in one of Claims 1 to 25 is subjected to an *in vitro* test of inhibition of kynurenine 3-hydroxylase, and the molecules responding positively to the said tests are then conditioned in the form of a pharmaceutical composition, optionally with addition of a pharmaceutically acceptable filler or vehicle.

29. Process for screening candidate compounds for activity in the prevention or treatment of diabetes, and especially non-insulin-dependent diabetes or its complications, by inhibiting kynurenine 3-hydroxylase, the said candidates not corresponding to formula (I) or (II) as defined in one of Claims 1 to 25, in which process the candidate compounds are subjected to an *in vitro* test of inhibition of kynurenine 3-hydroxylase, and the candidate that has responded positively to this test is selected.